

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 01879 080944 Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W  
----- 027977

R 071157 Z JUN 73  
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2637  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T KAMPALA 1879

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1-- IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE  
TAGS: PFOR EIND UG UK US  
SUBJECT: US PROTECTION OF BRITISH INTERESTS IN UGANDA

REF: KAMPALA 1867

SUMMARY. ACTING BHC BRIND CALLED JUNE 7 TO ASK IF USG REMAINS WILLING TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER FOR BRITISH INTERESTS IN UGANDA SHOULD GENERAL AMIN CLOSE DOWN BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN KAMPALA. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIND SAID THAT WHILE IN ADDIS GENERAL AMIN HAD STATED PUBLICLY, IN ONE OF HIS OFF- HAND ASIDES, THAT WHEN HE GOT BACK TO KAMPALA HE PLANMED TO DEAL DRASTICALLY WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION. THIS REMARK WAS APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH HIS DISPLEASURE OVER ALLEGED ACTIVITIES IN ADDIS OF PHILIP SHORT, BBC CORRESPONDENT HE HAD EARLIER EXPELLED FROM UGANDA. THOUGH AMIN' S REMARK ABOUT BHC WAS NOT WIDELY PUBLICIZED, FCO IS QUITE CONCERNED THAT HE MAY INTEND TO BREAK RELATIONS OR SIMPLY TELL BHC TO CLOSE UP SHOP. IN BRIND' S OPINION FCO IS OVER- REACTING, BUT THEY INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK US INFORMALLY IF USG REMAINS WILLING, AS WE TOLD THEM WE WERE LAST NOVEMBER, TO ACT AS PROTECTING POWER IF THERE IS BREAK IN RELATIONS OR BHC IS FORCED OUT. I SAID I WOULD ASK WASHINGTON AND LET HIM KNOW.

2. BRIND THOUGHT THAT AN INTERESTS SECTION WOULD NOT BE  
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PAGE 02 KAMPAL 01879 080944 Z

POSSIBLE, FOR THE CONCEPT WOULD BE TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR AMIN TO GRASP AND HE THEREFORE WOULDN' T PERMIT IT. AS FOR OTHER POWERS TAKING OVER INSTEAD OF US, BRIND THOUGHT GERMAN EMBASSY IS PRETTY INEFFECTIVE HERE, AND AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE STRONG ENOUGH REPRESENTATION. FCO STILL PREFERS US, THOUGH THEY WONDER IF REDUCTION IN OUR STAFFING WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO HANDLE BRITISH AFFAIRS. BRIND EXPECTS WORKLOAD WOULD NOT BE GREAT, WOULD BE MOSTLY CONSULAR, AND OVERALL BRITISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE DOWN TO ABOUT A THOUSAND PERSONS BY END OF 1973. IF THERE IS A BREAK IN RELATIONS, REDUCTION WOULD BE FAR BELOW THAT LEVEL, AS MANY UK CITIZENS WOULD BE UNWILLING STAY HERE UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS.

3. BRIND IS LEAVING ON TRANSFER JULY 15. BHC WILL BE HEADED TEMPORARILY BY JOHN STEWART, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ON TRANSFER IN FALL. NEW ACTING BHC WILL ARRIVE SEPTEMBER.

4. BRIND DID NOT MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT MOVE TO EXPEL UGANDA FROM COMMONWEALTH ( REFTEL). HE DID SAY THAT CANADIAN HC OLIVIER, WHO WAS HERE A WEEK AGO, ASKED FONMIN FOR MAKE- UP OF UGANDAN DELEGATION TO OTTAWA CONFERENCE, TO HELP WITH ADVANCE PLANNING. RESPONSE WAS THAT AMIN WOULD HEAD DELEGATION, AND WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE MINISTERS AND FIVE PERMSECS. BRIND BELIEVES AMIN WILL GO TO OTTAWA, SINCE HE WAS ABLE TO STAY OUT OF COUNTRY FOR A WEEK IN ADDIS WITH NOTHING UNTOWARD HAPPENING HERE.

5. BRIND ASKED ACTING FORMIN ETIANG ON JUNE 7 IF THERE WAS ANY NEWS ON GOU' S INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT REMAINING BRITISH FIRMS AND ESTATES, WHICH AMIN HAD ORDERED TAKEN OVER BEFORE HE WENT TO ADDIS. ETIANG' S RESPONSE WAS THAT HE HAD NOT TALKED WITH AMIN DURING WEEK SINCE HE RETURNED FROM ADDIS BECAUSE GENERAL HAS BEEN TOURING COUNTRY LECTURING NEW CHIEFS. BRIG. KILLI, WHO WAS ACTING FOR PRESIDENT DURING HIS ABSENCE IN ADDIS, IS SUPPOSED TO BRIEF GENERAL TODAY ON WHAT WENT ON DURING HIS ABSENCE. BRIND SAID STRONG RUMOR IS THAT MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN BACKTRACKING ON IDEA OF NATIONALIZING REMAINING BRITISH PROPERTIES BUT HE HAS NO IDEA WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE AMIN, WHOSE IMPULSIVE ORDER IT WAS IN FIRST PLACE. BRIND IS NOT TRYING TO SEE AMIN PERSONALLY BUT HE WOULD LIKE TO GET SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO GOU' S INTENTIONS.

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PAGE 03 KAMPAL 01879 080944 Z

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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